

New Virtual Training Opportunity!

Brain Injury and Opioids

The Pennsylvania Department of Drug & Alcohol Programs (DDAP) is pleased to announce the availability of a new training on the intersection between brain injury and opioid misuse.

Brain Injury and Opioids

People who misuse opioids are more likely to sustain a brain injury as a result of their opioid use due to decreased respiration and prolonged periods of anoxia. This training course is designed to assist substance use treatment providers to better understand the interaction between opioid misuse and brain injury, how associated cognitive impairments impact response to treatment, how to most effectively work with people with brain injury and adapt treatment for maximum success. The 8-hour virtual course is divided into 2 parts in DDAP's Training Management System, and covers the following:

Part I

- **Brain Basics and the Toxic Brain:** Topics include brain anatomy and function, the biological basis of behavior, mechanisms of injury, and the impact of opioids on neurochemistry and brain structure.
- **Understanding the Effects of Pathology:** Topics will include screening tools, neurocognitive assessments, and how to use this information to develop customized interventions for managing challenging emotional and cognitive issues. Additionally, developing environmental supports and cues, and methods for implementing productive daily activity patterns will be addressed.

Part II

- **Cognitive, Emotional and Behavioral Techniques for Treating Persons with Co-Occurring Opioid Misuse and Brain Injury** – a focus on opioid misuse and how to pair cognitive interventions with interventions in order to increase treatment success.
- **The Integration of Client Needs, Resources, and Funding** – a focus on co-occurring brain and SUD resources, including community-based treatment options and supports.

This course was developed by neuropsychologist and neurobehavioral specialists from the Brain Injury Association of Pennsylvania in collaboration with the Pennsylvania Department of Health, PA Certification Board (PCB) and National Association of Social Work (NASW) CEUs are available and certificates of completion awarded upon completion of all events.

How to Attend

This course is now available in DDAP's online [Training Management System](#) for request and registration. **NOTE: 'Brain Injury and Opioids – Parts I and II' must be scheduled and attended for certificates to be issued.** Please contact your Single County Authority (SCA). Your SCA can make the request to hold the virtual course.

DDAP Training Section